

1

What was the Paleolithic Era? When did it occur?

Objective: Identify what the Paleolithic Era was and when it occurred.

Introduction

The image below is a mural from the Lubbock Lake Landmark in Lubbock, Texas. Based on archaeological evidence, an artist created this image to show the Paleolithic lifestyle that humans living in this area of Texas engaged in from around thirteen thousand years ago to the 1500s.

Directions: Examine the image below, then fill out the chart with what you observe, your questions, and your inferences about Paleolithic life.



Source: <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/lubbock/images/lubbock-m17.html>

Observe (3) List three things you notice about Paleolithic life that interest you.	Question (2) Write two questions about this picture.	Claim (1) Based on your observations, what do you think life was like for people during the Paleolithic Era? Write one claim.




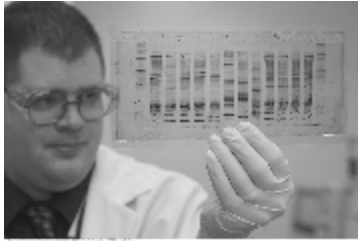
2

How do we know what we know about prehistory? How is our knowledge limited?

Objective: Evaluate the usefulness of sources of information about prehistory.

“Prehistory” refers to a time before humans had a written language. The Paleolithic Era took place during prehistory. Since there are no written records, historians rely on other evidence to construct what life was like.

Directions: For each of the sources below, identify what historians might be able to learn about the Paleolithic Era and what limitations each source has for historians.

Artifacts	Skeletons	Modern Day Societies	Genomic Testing
			
Artifacts are objects made by humans like tools, buildings, weapons, art, pottery, and clothing that are usually found and studied by archaeologists. Archaeology is the study of the past through what has been left by behind.	Anthropology is the study of the origins and development of people and their society. Some anthropologists study human skeletons to figure out how they lived, what they ate, and how they died.	Anthropologists also study modern day societies in hopes that they will better understand how people lived in the past. There are still some people in the world that live like humans did in the Paleolithic Era.	Scientists can use genetic tests to determine where and when groups of humans migrated in the past. They can also figure out which groups of people came into contact with one another through genetic markers.
What can historians learn from artifacts?	What can historians learn from skeletons?	What can historians learn from studying modern societies?	What can historians learn from genomic testing?
What limits do artifacts have as historical sources?	What limits do skeletons have as historical sources?	What limits do anthropological studies of modern societies have as historical sources?	What limits does genomic testing have as a historical source?

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What was life like during the Paleolithic Era?

Objective: Describe what life was like for humans living during the Paleolithic Era.

Vocabulary Preview

Directions: Match each of the words on the left with the correct definition on the right.

Letter	Vocabulary Word	Definition
___	hunting and gathering	A. having to do with the Old Stone Age, the time period from 2 million B.C.E. to about 10,000 B.C.E., characterized by the use of stone tools
___	nomad	B. one who gets their food by killing wild animals and collecting wild fruit, vegetables, and nuts
___	nomadic	C. free time
___	Paleolithic	D. the act of getting one's food by killing wild animals and collecting wild fruit, vegetables, and nuts
___	hunter-gatherer	E. the characteristic of moving from place to place staying in one place temporarily
___	leisure	F. the language, ideas, inventions, and art of a particular group of people
___	consume	G. a person who moves from one place to another following food sources
___	culture	H. to eat or drink

Paleolithic Era Formative Assessment Task

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Task: | Using your knowledge of global history, write a response in which you |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe what life was like for humans living in the Paleolithic Era. |

Use must use information from TWO documents to help you write your paragraph. You must cite the documents in

(parentheses) at the end of the sentence in which you use information from the documents. You must turn your paper in by class period 9/15 either typed or hand written in blue/black in (NO PENCILS)

Document 1

	Paleolithic Era (Old Stone Age) 2,000,000 B.C.E. - 8,000 B.C.E.
Lifestyle	Nomadic; in groups of up to 50; tribal society; hunters and gatherers
Economy	There was no concept of private property
Art	Cave paintings, pottery
Technology	Fire; Rough stone tools
Food	Hunted and gathered for food; people followed animal herds that they hunted and moved locations when wild plants in other areas were ripe

Source: Dates from Bulliet, Crossley, Headrick, Hirsch, and Johnson. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, Cengage Learning, p. 20. Table adapted from http://www.diffen.com/difference/Neolithic_vs_Paleolithic

Document 2

“What Hunters Do for a Living”

A woman gathers on one day enough food to feed her family for three days, and spends the rest of her time resting in camp, doing embroidery, visiting other camps, or entertaining visitors from other camps. For each day at home, kitchen routines, such as cooking, nut cracking, collecting firewood, and fetching water, occupy one to three hours of her time. This rhythm of steady work and steady **leisure** is maintained throughout the year. The hunters tend to work more frequently than the women, but their schedule is uneven. It is not unusual for a man to hunt avidly for a week and then do no hunting at all for two or three weeks. Since hunting is an unpredictable business and subject to magical control, hunters sometimes experience a run of bad luck and stop hunting for a month or longer. During these periods, visiting, entertaining, and especially dancing are the primary activities of men.

Source: Richard Lee, “What Hunters Do for a Living,” in *Man the Hunter*, eds. R.B. Lee and I. DeVore (Chicago: Aldine, 1968) adapted from [The Big History Project](#)

Document 3



A Paleolithic cave painting in the Lascaux Cave in France depicting a bull and horses, animals that were important to the nomadic hunters that created the images.

Source: International Committee for Preservation of Lascaux. Photo credit: Has Hins. http://www.savelascaux.org/Gallery_photo18.php

Document 4

Tools from Hunter-Gatherer Societies



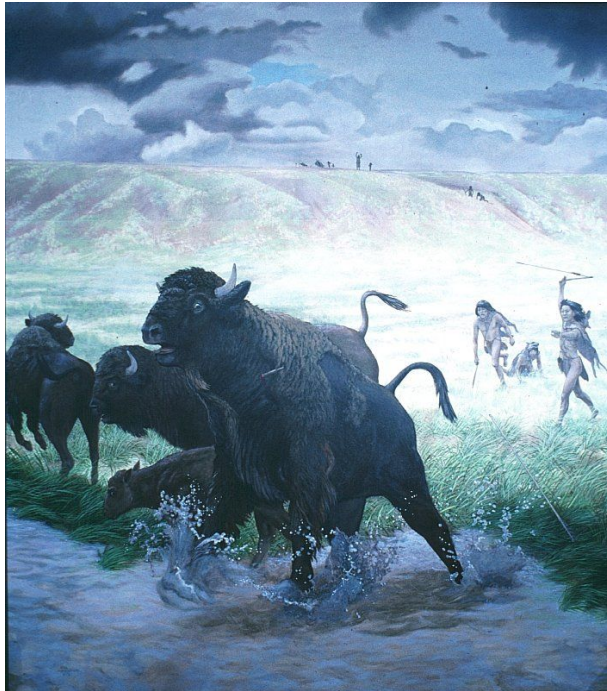
Hunter-gathering societies have used various types of stones, as well as bone and antler, to make a variety of tools such scrapers, blades, arrows,

spearheads, needles, awls, fishhooks, and harpoons. The 6.5- to 6.7-cm (2.5- to 2.6-inch) flint blades on the left are from North Africa, dating from 5000–4500 BCE. The 5.7- x 4.6-cm (2.2- x 1.8-inch) scraper on the right is made of green jasper, dates from 5200 to 2500 BCE, and was found in the south-central Sahara Desert.

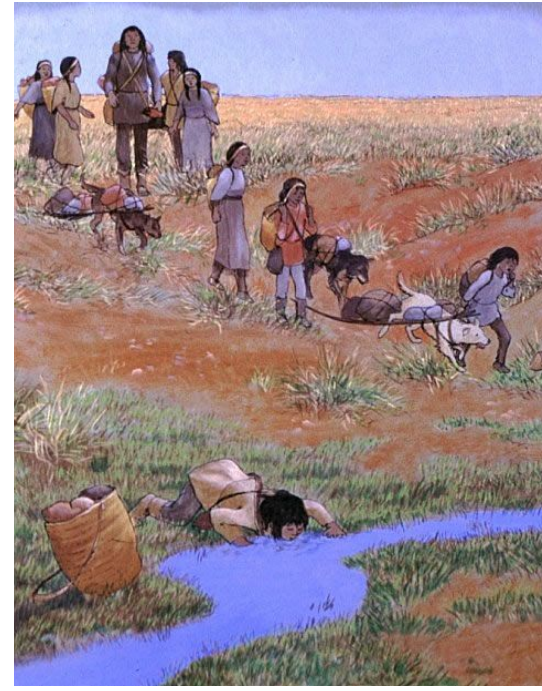
Document 5

The images below are murals from the Lubbock Lake Landmark in Lubbock, Texas. Based on archaeological evidence, an artist created these images to show the paleolithic lifestyle that humans living in this area of Texas engaged in from around thirteen thousand years ago to the 1500s.

Document 5a



Document 5b



Source: "Lubbock Lake Landmark" University of Texas at Austin. www.texasbeyondhistory.net/lubbock/images/lubbock-m23.html

Document 6

Should you be Eating like a Caveman?

...Dr. Eaton, a radiologist, and Cordain, an exercise physiologist... believes evolutionary forces dictate that we will live healthiest when we **consume** a diet similar to what early man ate 2.5 million years ago during the hunter-gatherer days of the Paleolithic Era. This diet included more (low-fat) proteins and (healthy) fats than most of us eat today, and fewer carbohydrates, mainly because Paleo man ate no wheat, rice, or corn whatsoever. These modern grains were not "invented" until 10,000 years ago. In other words, throughout 99.6 percent of our evolutionary history, we ate no bread, pancakes, pasta, or chow mein. As a result, they say, we aren't adapted to process them healthfully.

... Cordain first learned about Paleo nutrition in 1985 when the New England Journal of Medicine published a "Special Article" by Dr. Eaton and his colleague Melvin Konner. In that article, the authors concluded that the Paleo diet contained vastly more vitamin C, fiber, calcium, iron, folate, and essential fatty acids than our current supermarket-based fare. It also contained far less sugar, salt, and saturated fats. They concluded: "The diet of our remote ancestors may be a reference standard for modern human nutrition and a model for defense against certain 'diseases of civilization.'"

It's easy to make fun of the Paleo diet. Right away, everyone says, "Sure, and how long did your basic caveman live?" About 20 to 25 years, it turns out. But primitive hunter-gatherers didn't die from heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure like we do. They died from germs, viruses, and traumas. We live longer today, in large part, because we have sewers, inoculations, and amazing (if expensive) health-care systems.

Source: Amby Burfoot, "Should you be Eating like a Caveman?" *Runner's World* (Dec 2005)

